First Language Acquisition

Time: Mi 16:15 – 17:45
Room: SR 601

Instructor: Prof. Holger Diessel
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Child language is different from adult language. Children might call everything that is round and flat a moon or they might say 'goed' instead of 'went' for the past tense of 'go'. Why do children make these mistakes? And how do they eventually learn the correct forms? This course provides an introduction to some central topics in child language research, focusing on grammatical development. Students will have the opportunity to work with transcripts of computerized child language data and to write an empirical research paper.

Materials
Can be downloaded from my homepage

Requirements
Short report, CHILDES exercises, Power Point presentation, Empirical research paper

Recommended
Lecture: ‘Language and Cognition’ [Do 16:15-17:45; CZ 3 H6]

Readings
Course schedule

15.4. Introduction

22.4. Observational studies -> Medienzentrum 217
   Introduction to CHILDES

29.4. Experimental methods -> Medienzentrum 217
   Karmiloff & Karmiloff-Smith. 2001. chap 2

6.5. Prelinguistic development
   Karmiloff & Karmiloff-Smith. 2001. chap 3

13.5. Early words
   Karmiloff & Karmiloff-Smith 2001. chap 4 and 56-66

20.5. Principles of word learning
   Karmiloff & Karmiloff-Smith. 2001. chap 4: 68-77
   Markman 1996
   [optional: Tomasello 2001]

27.5. Early multi-word constructions
   Tomasello 2003: 113-121
   [Clark 2003: chap 7]

3.6 Subject deletion, passives, and questions
   Dabrowska 2000

10.6. Infinitives and complement clauses
   [optional: Diessel 2004: chap 4 + chap 7]

17.6. Relative clauses and adverbial clauses
   Diessel and Tomasello 2000
   [optional: Diessel 2009]

24.6. Student presentations

1.7. Student presentations

8.7. Fällt aus

15.7. Student presentations